

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending. The indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 1-5, 7 and 9-22 is appreciated.

A. Claims 6 and 8 were provisionally rejected based on obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 13 of copending Application Serial No. 09/836,333. The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the following reason(s).

First, Application Serial No. 09/836,333 has been patented as U.S. Patent No. 7,174,549, rendering the rejection moot.

Second, the claims in Application Serial No. 09/836,333 were amended, prior to being patented, and thus, original claim 13, which included the features of original independent claim 12, no longer exists.

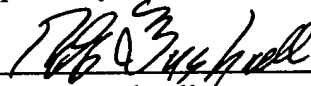
Third, since the present application has an earlier filing date than U.S. Patent No. 7,174,549, then the '549 patent is not available as obvious type prior art to the present application under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 6 and 8 is deemed to be in error and should be withdrawn.

The examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, withdraw the objections and/or rejections and pass the application to issue in view of the above amendments and/or remarks.

Should a Petition for extension of time be required with the filing of this Response, the Commissioner is kindly requested to treat this paragraph as such a request and is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 02-4943 of Applicant's undersigned attorney in the amount of the incurred fee if, **and only if**, a petition for extension of time be required **and** a check of the requisite amount is not enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,


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